

Otago Girls' High School Alumni Association

Principal's Report

As the year draws to an end we look back on an extremely busy but very successful year. Highlights to date have been our superb NCEA results, our sporting successes (which include regional, South Island and national titles), some spectacular musical and artistic achievements, the appointment of two of our students to be Youth Members of Parliament in 2016, international trips to China, France and Thailand/Laos, our first ANZAC day commemorations, a visit from ex-girl Dame Silvia Cartwright (who presented us with her medals) and the development of our Global Leadership Programme.



Confirming our belief in the quality of education we deliver at Otago Girls' High School was the receipt of our confirmed Education Review Office Report in November this year. The following excerpt provides a sense of what we value in the school.

Otago Girls' High School provides high quality education for students from Years 9 to 13. As the oldest secondary girls' school in New Zealand its buildings, displays and other connections to the past are clearly evident and part of students' learning programmes.

Students learn in a very positive, settled and supportive school culture which promotes their engagement and achievement. In 2014 the school gained a New Zealand Foundation for Character Education Award. Teachers and leaders work well together, sharing ideas and teaching practice. They communicate well with each other and the students, using ICT effectively in the process. Some senior classes and activities are shared with Otago Boys' High School.

The school is extending its connections beyond the school to better support its students. It has formed a wide range of community partnerships to help enhance students' learning. Partnerships with parents/whānau have been strengthened. Students have increased opportunities for service and other experiences of interest beyond the school. Key examples include the:

- recent introduction of student learning conferences with parents and teacher mentors
- increased focus on global connections through the wide range of languages taught, trips, exchanges, teacher scholarships and a global-learning programme for students
- establishment and use of an alumni association.

Students ERO spoke with were very positive about:

- the changes they perceive in their school culture
- the way their teachers care about them as individuals and their learning
- how their learning and wellbeing are valued.

- Education Review Office

As our Alumni, we believe that you have the ability to add value to what we offer here at Otago Girls'. In the New Year we will be opening our new Music Suite and Access Tower, more sports teams will require coaches and managers, we will be commissioning more historic boards, we will be hosting our Global Leadership Speaker Series, work will continue on planning for our 150th celebrations in 2021 and our Parent Teacher and Student Association and Sports Council will be carrying out fundraising activities. Your involvement in any of these activities is welcomed, as are your contributions to and feedback on our Alumni Newsletter. We also welcome any Alumni visiting or living in Dunedin to take the opportunity to visit your old school. Please let us know if you would like to visit so we can arrange a tour of the school and find memorabilia of your era with which to entertain you.

As a school we are excited about the year ahead and look forward to reporting to you on more outstanding student and ex-student achievements and events. I wish you well for the festive season and look forward to meeting many of you in the future.

Linda Miller



Ms Miller and Year 9 students welcome visitors to the annual Celebration service at Knox Church.



Gift to the school

We were delighted to have a visit from Geraldine Macdougall from Minzion Station, Millers Flat. She kindly donated pieces of an Otago Girls' High School tea set to the school. The tea set was originally owned by her aunt Margaret McAllum. The tea set was manufactured by Grafton China & Sons in England for Arthur Barnett Ltd. Dunedin probably in the 1930s or 1940s. If any one can help date this china more accurately please contact us.



Ex-girls back at OGHS as staff

Over the years Otago Girls' High School has continued to attract ex-girls back into its fold. Currently there are five staff members who are ex-girls. Two ex-principals were also ex-girls: Flora Allan, Principal from 1912 to 1921 and Jan (Janet) Anderson (nee Smith), Principal from 1995 to 2012.

Ex-girls currently on the staff at Otago Girls' High School.

From L-R. Jamie Cole (nee Martin), Maths teacher - student 1998-2002, Jeanette Chapman, Head of Mathematics - student 1972-1976, Cheree Henderson (nee Macdonald), Administrative Assistant - student 1987-1991, Michelle Matthews (nee Todd), Physical Education and Outdoor Education teacher - student 1997-1999, Jane Smallfield (nee Palmer), Librarian - student 1973-1977.



Music Suite nears completion

As the year comes to an end the music suite and access tower are nearing completion. Adjoining the existing Siedeberg block, the tower gives access to the different levels of the block and to the Visual and Performing Arts Suite. The new music suite will be a state-of-the-art facility with recording studios, practice and performance rooms. It will be such an asset to the school.

Ms Linda Miller visits the Central Otago Branch of Ex-Girls'.



Ms Linda Miller, Principal, left, and Central Otago OGHS ex-girls Jan Robb (centre) and Prue Miller, with the two gifts the branch donated to Otago Girls' High School. The book is *Graham Sydney Paintings 1974-2014* and the painting is by OGHS ex-girl Eana Jeans.

OGHS has two Youth MPs



Otago Girls' High School is proud of its two Youth Members of Parliament, Kelly Stitely (above) in Year 12, is representing David Clark, while Katie Gotlieb (below) in Year 11 is representing Metiria Turei.



Ex-Girl Achievements

In this newsletter we are starting a list of ex-girl achievements as they come to hand. Please email me with details of any you know of as you become aware of them (sd@otagogirls.school.nz).

Lisa Dick (OGHS 2009-2013)

Lisa has been selected as part of the NZ delegation (14 students) to travel to America for the 2016 Harvard Model United Nations in February. She is also going on a month long tour of the U.S. with stops in San Francisco, Washington DC, Boston, New York, and Hawaii to visit various organisations related to international politics and to meet diplomats and officials.

Lydia Maclean (OGHS 2004-2008)

Lydia has completed her Masters in Science Communications at Otago University and has a job with the Antarctica Heritage organisation in Christchurch.

Nursing Graduates (OGHS 2008-2012)

Kaitlin Zonneveld, Rebecca Evans-Turner and Laura Everett are graduating on December 11 with Bachelor of Nursing from the Otago Polytechnic.

Emily Duncan (OGHS 2008-2012)

Emily Duncan has just had one of her plays published in an anthology. The publishers are Playmarket New Zealand.

Emily Gordon (OGHS 2007-2011) was part of the Otago Polytechnic fashion designer delegation which recently visited Shanghai.

Calla Knudson-Hollebon (OGHS 2010-2014)

Calla has won a scholarship to study voice at Waikato University and she is being tutored by Dame Malvina Major. Calla will be moving up to Hamilton next year.

Chantel Knox (nee Lindsay) (OGHS 1995-1999)

Chantel and her husband own and run the NRG Health and Fitness Centre in Cromwell and they recently won the New Zealand Exercise Industry Community Excellence Award 2015.

Anna Frost (OGHS 1995-1999)

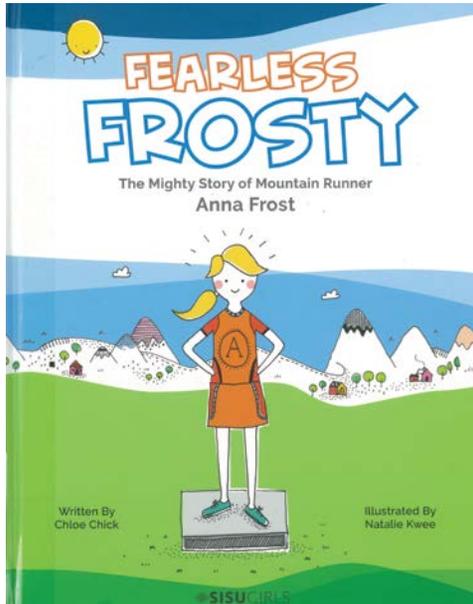
In July Anna Frost was first female home in the 2015 Hardrock 100 in a time of 28 hours and 22 minutes. The race covering 100 miles goes over the Colorado's San Juan mountain range, climbing 33,992 feet, and ascends to the highest point of 14,048 feet above sea level.

The race is known for its beautiful scenery and its notable challenges in terrain and weather conditions as well as for the fact that only about 60% of contestants actually finish the race.

Anna turned her attention to running in 2000, when she started racing road 5 kms, 10 kms, half marathons and

triathlons. Her first mountain race was the New Zealand National Championships in 2004. Frost qualified for worlds in Italy after just one race, and uphill running became her specialty. In 2008 Anna turned professional.

Recently Anna Frost has become the subject of a children's story book. *Fearless Frosty the Mighty Story of Mountain Runner Anna Frost* is the first in a series of young children's books about fearless females called SisuGirls. Sisu is a Finish word meaning determination, bravery and resilience.



Anna Frost after winning the Hardrock 100 race.

Add your memories to the school website

Under the Alumni section of the school website there is now a place to add your memories of your time of school. We would love to start gathering these to use for the 150th reunion. Please visit our the website and send us some of your memories from your time at Otago Girls' High School.
www.otagogirls.school.nz

Ex-Girl Profile Katherine Milburn (nee Roy) OGHS 1978-1982

My name is Katherine Milburn (née Roy) and I attended Otago Girls' from 1978-1982, following in the footsteps of my grandmother and two aunts. 1978 was the year Margaret Glue became principal and there were only three third form classes. I really enjoyed my time at Otago



Girls' making new friends and have fond memories of the gym frock uniform, old school library building, embroidery classes with Mrs Lascelles, Latin with Miss Scott and the annual thanksgiving (now Celebration) service at First Church. After taking science subjects in my senior years at school I decided to switch to the humanities at the University of Otago and majored in Anthropology, finishing with a Master of Arts. I then started working part-time at the Hocken Library as a reference assistant helping a wide range of people with their research - a role I enjoyed for nearly 23 years. During this time I also studied part-time for the Master of Library and Information Studies, and from 2011 have loved working at my current role of Liaison Librarian and being responsible for the posters and ephemera collection at the Hocken.

In 2011 my daughter Claire chose to attend Otago Girls' and I joined the PTSA. The PTSA has been a great way to meet other parents, and it has been a very helpful source of information about the school. In 2012 I took on the role of president and have learnt some valuable new skills, from making chutneys to woollen toys, for a whole range of fundraising projects over the past five years - I have taken part in two school fairs, two house and garden tours and one art and craft auction. I have found everyone at Otago Girls' from the principals (Jan Anderson and Linda Miller), all of the staff, and Board of Trustees members to be friendly, welcoming and dedicated. I know my daughter has also had a great education there and she now looks forward to continuing her education at the University of Otago.

Ex-Girl Profile

Gemma Ellis

OGHS 2004-2008

After going to the careers expo held at school when I was 5th form I decided I wanted to be a hotel manager. The next year I took English, maths, tourism, computing, geography. I finished the year and passed NCEA Level 2 with achieved. I stayed on for the 7th form



and took English, statistics, computing, advanced computing and tourism. I completed NCEA Level 3 in 2008 with achieved and gained University Entrance. High school is all about finding out who you are as a person. It doesn't matter if you aren't part of the "popular" group, just that you stay true to yourself. I had a small group of friends and I am still friends with most of them now. Although I had a small group of close friends, I still talked to people from other "groups" and that is something that has stuck with me now. I have friends from all different backgrounds and make an effort to talk to everyone; you never know who you will have something in common with.

I studied at Otago Polytechnic in 2009, 2010 and 2012 and gained a Bachelor of Applied Management. I majored in Hotel Management and Food and Beverage Management. The first year was all the basic management classes so I did my best but wasn't outstanding. The second year was a mixture of management classes and those that focused on my majors. I got A for a couple of classes but the majority were B's. My final year had one management class and the rest were for my majors. I set myself a goal to be top student in both my majors and get all A's which I achieved. I also got a special award for my contributions towards corporate life at Otago Polytechnic. I earned this by being part of the student executive for two years and putting my name forward for opportunities that came my way, such as taking potential students on tours around the campus.

In 2011 I did an internship at Disney World in Florida. I spent six months as a hostess at a restaurant in one of the theme parks and six months on front desk in a value resort. Although

I didn't get paid well, it was an amazing experience. I did this in the middle of my degree because the last semester in my course is a full-time work placement and I was counting on getting a job from that. I also wanted to be able to come back to New Zealand with something to go to rather than having to get a job straight away.

I got my first job at a dairy when I was 14, then after a year started at Centre City New World on checkout. I think having this part-time job really set me up for the future and made it much easier for people to take you seriously when applying for jobs after school. In May of my final year studying I started on front desk at the Mercure Leisure Lodge for my work placement and gained a full-time position for one and a half years. I wanted to progress to apply for the Graduate Management Program with Accor which is a placement in a hotel working in food and beverage, housekeeping and front office at entry and supervisory level. I was 1 of eight people in the country accepted for the intake and was sent to Novotel Queenstown. While working there I was the winner of the AICR Southern Branch Receptionist of the Year competition and first runner-up at the national competition. After finishing my year at Novotel, I went to Sofitel Queenstown as a receptionist. I was there for just over five months before moving to Auckland to be a Front Office Team Leader at Pullman Auckland. I have been here since the end of August and can honestly say I'm extremely happy!

I really didn't do the best at school but since then I have worked so hard and put my name forward for any opportunities that come my way. I think the key to success is doing something you love and not letting little hurdles get in your way, and it's safe to say we all get our fair share of those.

Keen to visit Otago Girls' High School?

Otago Girls' High School is delighted to welcome ex-girls who are visiting Dunedin to call into the school - you are always welcome and we will find the time to show you around and answer your questions.

We also welcome hearing from any groups that want to organise a reunion and use the school as a base for their celebrations. We are happy to help host these events over a weekend. If we can help you in any way contact Jane Smallfield on sd@otagogirls.school.nz

Ex-Girl Profile Julianne Coppola (nee Patrick) OGHS 1993-1997

After leaving OGHS I studied English and Politics at Otago University. Having been bitten by the Politics bug I moved to Wellington in 2001 and started working at the Ministry of Health. I was lucky enough to be seconded to Hon Annette King's office (then Minister of Health) about a year later. This led to my working in the offices of various Ministers and Associate Ministers of Health. The five years I spent in Parliament gave me a great insight in to the workings of government.

In 2007 I left Health and started working as a Senior Policy Analyst in the International Team at NZQA. My job included hosting international delegations visiting NZ to learn about our education system, writing policy, mentoring staff, and being involved in Free Trade Agreement negotiations. I got to travel to various part of Asia in this role and I made the most of the opportunity to visit countries I may not otherwise have done so.

I met my husband-to-be while living in Wellington. Lorenzo is a Scots-Italian who had been living in New Zealand for a few years. In 2009 we made the decision to relocate back "home" to Dunedin to enjoy a better quality of life. We moved back here in August 2009 and I started working as PA to the Chief Executive at the Primary Health Organisation in Dunedin. In 2010 this PHO was merged with 8 others to become a Southern region organisation, where I still work today.

Lorenzo and I married in October 2010 and we have two beautiful, boisterous boys – Owen who is four and Jamie who is 18 months. We currently live in Mosgiel and we enjoy the laid back Dunedin lifestyle.

I still count many of my OGHS classmates as my best friends and a lot of us have moved back to Dunedin to have our families, further cementing our friendships as our kids grow up together.



Ex-Girl Profile Abi Walker (nee Romeril) OGHS 1993-1997

Since leaving OGHS I have done many things: I have two Bachelors Degrees from Victoria University, the first is a Bachelor of Science with a major in Computer Science and the second is a Bachelor of Biomedical Science with a double major in Human Genetics and Molecular Pathology. I have worked in high-level



administration (negotiating contracts and preparing multi-million dollar budgets) and policy development (being involved in the changes to community based sentences for the Department of Corrections in the mid-2000s). I then worked in information technology (rising through the ranks to obtain the title of Senior Business Analyst), and even worked part-time as a Probation Officer in South Auckland.

However I missed the sciences, and so I returned to study (and to Dunedin) and, in my early 30s, I completed a Master of Science degree majoring in Genetics. But it was the things I discovered while doing my Masters that were completely unrelated to my research that have brought me the most joy. During this time I taught dance and worked part-time teaching in first year laboratories for a range of different biological sciences, and I discovered I loved teaching.

When I finished my Masters I was over the moon to get a job as a Physiology Teaching Fellow at Otago University. Then, at the beginning of 2015, I was promoted to be the Lead Science Teaching Fellow for the Department. As much as I love my job, I am about to (temporarily) hand over the reins to one of my colleagues, as my husband (whom I also 'discovered' while completing my Masters) and I are expecting the arrival of our first child in December.

It has been a long and winding road but I have found happiness, and I wouldn't be who I am today if I'd missed any part of the journey.

Christchurch Branch of OGHS Ex-Girls outing.

On Tuesday the 3rd of November 29 OGHS Ex Girls, (Christchurch Branch), boarded a bus bound for Ribblesdale Garden at Oxford. The hour long trip soon went by with lots of chatter! At Ribblesdale we were joined by two more members who had driven from their homes in Rangiora. We were welcomed by Denise Illingworth, her mum and two WWOOFers (Willing Workers On Organic Farms). Denise climbed aboard the bus to outline the history and development of the garden before ushering us indoors to enjoy a beautiful Devonshire tea. It was a sight to be seen!



Following morning tea, Denise showed us around her garden and garden centre. The colour in the garden was magnificent with plants of all types. Next stop was Ribblesdale Garden Centre. Just picture if you will, 31 women all shopping for plants. The good folk at Ribblesdale packed all the purchases up in plastic bags, Lilly (a WWOOFer) attached names to bags and our sole male, the bus driver packed them all in the luggage compartment of the bus. Lilly also made scarecrows, and one of them also now resides in the garden of an Ex Girl!



On bidding goodbye to Ribblesdale, we travelled into Oxford township to have one and a half hours of free time to lunch and shop. The bus driver couldn't help but grin as the ladies boarded the bus to head for Christchurch. Nearly everyone had even more parcels.



The return journey was across the Waimakariri River to Sheffield and down the Old West Coast Road. One of our members knew of a roadside stall selling asparagus. Our ever obliging driver pulled up and several ladies poured out clutching their wallets to buy fresh asparagus.

Finally we arrived back where we set out from, pleasantly tired from a day of fresh air, fine food, and all thrilled with a great day out in the company of like minded friends.

Margaret Jones (nee Shaw)
Christchurch Branch of OGHS Ex-Girls

Medals now on display



Dame Silvia Cartwright's collection of medals now on permanent display in the school foyer.

OGHS historical panels

Earlier in the year the Alumni Association produced and funded the first of our historic panels. This panel, located in the school foyer, was about the foundation of the school. The second panel entitled "Uniforms through the ages" is nearing completion and this has been kindly sponsored by Midway Motors of Dunedin. We are really fortunate to have had such generous support from this company.

The third panel is one of two which will feature ex-girls of the school and this will be generously sponsored by the Christchurch Branch of the OGHS Ex-Girls'. Thank you to all the Christchurch ex-girls who have contributed to this project and we look forward to featuring the board in a future newsletter.

The ex-girl boards are going to be the hardest to prepare in terms of deciding which of our many prominent ex-girls to include. I realise that no matter how carefully we chose those to be featured we will upset somebody.

We would love to have your input on these ex-girl boards. If you would like to suggest someone to be featured please email me on sd@otagogirls.school.nz

Ex-Girl Branch reports welcome:

This newsletter will be published three times a year, along with a Mid Year School report. We welcome reports from all Ex-Girls branches to be included in these publications. Please send these, along with any photographs to sd@otagogirls.school.nz

Thanks 65 years on

Recently I received an email from Joan Wilson in England. She attended Oldershaw High School for girls in Wallasey, Cheshire, England from 1950 to 1956. She fondly and gratefully remembered Oldershaw High School being adopted by Otago Girls' High School who sent parcels to her school.

Otago Girls' High School had a close relationship with Oldershaw High School, and it chose to support the school as it was in an area badly damaged during the war, and it was "not so close to the country as to be specially favoured in the matter of food and it was of a size and status approximating to our own".¹

In October 1946 the first batch of parcels (numbering 54) were sent to Oldershaw. These parcels contained milk, cheese, tongues, jam and fat, while others contained jelly crystals, condensed milk, sweets and cakes. This relationship continued into the 1950s after which the help was not required. In recognition of the support Otago Girls' had given Oldershaw High School the school donated a silver cup to be awarded annually to our Head Prefect.

It is nice to think that the generosity of Otago Girls' High School is still remembered by one Oldershaw High School's ex-students 60 years on.

¹ Wallis, E. *A Most Rare Vision*, 1995

OGHS 150th Celebrations- Waitangi Weekend 5-7 February 2021

Planning is already underway for our 150th Celebrations in 2021. You can help us out by making sure any ex-students or staff you know have registered their interest in this event. If you aren't already on our database you can go to the school website and enter your details on our Alumni page. Alternatively you can email us at alumni@otagogirls.school.nz



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This newsletter was compiled by Jane Smallfied on behalf of the OGHS Alumni Association.